

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 521

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Deborah Taylor Tate on her appointment to the Federal Communications Commission.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those Tennesseans who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves in public service to their State and their nation; and

WHEREAS, it is with utmost pride and honor that we recognize and commend the accomplishments of Deborah Taylor Tate, an outstanding Tennessean, who was recently confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as a member of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and

WHEREAS, Deborah Tate was born in Murfreesboro, and is the daughter of the late Brigadier General and Mrs. Louis Carlton Taylor of Clay County; she is married to William H. Tate, a partner in the Nashville law firm of Howard, Tate, Sowell, Wilson, and Boyte, and the couple have three children: Will, Taylor, and Carlton; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tate earned her B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee; certified as a Rule 31 Mediator by the Tennessee Supreme Court, she is a member of the Nashville Bar Association, the Lawyer's Association for Women, and is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in her long and distinguished career of public service, Deborah Tate has served as an attorney and senior policy advisor to Governor Lamar Alexander and Governor Don Sundquist; as Mental Health Policy Advisor to Governor Sundquist she was instrumental in the creation and implementation of a statewide plan establishing a Mental Health Revision

Commission, which culminated in the passage of an entire new mental health law for Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on the university level, Commissioner Tate has served as Director of the State and Local Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies, and on the adjunct faculty of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, and the Jack. C. Massey Graduate School of Business at Belmont University; she has also been a guest lecturer at the Diversity Institute, the First Amendment Center, and at the Vanderbilt University Law School; and

WHEREAS, widely known as a leader on child and family issues, Deborah Tate serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Centerstone, Inc., the largest mental health provider in Tennessee, and is the founder and former President of Renewal House, a recovery residence for mothers with addictions and their children; she has also served in leadership positions on the boards of the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Family and Children's Services, Tennessee Voices for Children, Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc., Junior League of Nashville, Martha O'Bryan Center Foundation, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS, before joining the Federal Communications Commission, Deborah Tate helped oversee telecommunications and investor-owned utility companies as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA), which she served as Chairman from 2003 until 2004; and

WHEREAS, during her exemplary tenure with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, she initiated a statewide symposium on winter heating issues, was instrumental in the development of the Do Not Fax program, and implemented significant community outreach and education efforts; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Mrs. Tate served as Chairman of the Washington Action Committee and on both the Consumer Affairs and Gas committees; she also served with distinction on the Editorial Advisory Board for KMB Video Journal and the American Public Gas Association Security and Integrity Foundation Board of Directors Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being recognized by *Tennessee Business* as one of Tennessee's "Most Powerful People" in 2004, and receiving the Junior League and Philanthropist Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Award, Deborah Tate has also been elected to International Women of Tennessee, nominated for the Athena Award, and honored by the Academy of Pediatrics and numerous mental health organizations; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Tate is an active and devout member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, which she has served faithfully for many years as an elder and as a member of the Presbyterian Judicial Council; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Tate possesses a unique ability to develop a constructive consensus, and her remarkable success as a public servant is directly attributable to her high standards of civility, good will, and probity; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tate is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she is to be especially commended for her exemplary service as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and for her many years of honorable and astute service to the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Deborah Taylor Tate on her appointment by President George W. Bush and confirmation by the United States Senate to serve as a member of the Federal Communications Commission, and we extend to her our best wishes as she delves into the complicated issues facing the United States in the ever evolving digital age.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.